

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated June 5, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 5, 2009. Applicants submit this response to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 9, 14-20, 22-23 and 32-38 are pending in the application. Claims 9, 14-17, 19-20, 22-23 and 32-38 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 9, 15, 17, 19-20, 32 and 34-35 have been amended. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Further, Applicants are not conceding in this application that those amended (or canceled) claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these (pre-amended or canceled claims) and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Statement of Substance of Interview

On July 7, 2009, a telephonic interview was held between Gero G. McClellan (attorney of record), Johnny Lam (technical advisor for Applicants), and Examiner Michael Hicks. The parties discussed the cited references including *Chiueh*. Claims 9 and 17 were discussed. The parties also discussed proposed amendments to the claims. During the interview, the Examiner stated that the proposed amendments should at least overcome the rejection of record. The proposed amendments are reflected in this response.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9, 14-20, 22-23 and 32-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Chiueh et al.* ("An Annotation System for VSLI Design", Proceedings of the Tenth Annual International Phoenix Conference on Computers and Communications, 1991, Pages 755-761, IEEE and referred to hereinafter as *Chiueh*).

With this response, Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite *wherein a view of data is any collection of data . . . returned from executing a database query and wherein the predetermined set is specified via user input and comprises at least one of: a predetermined number of cells visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data; a specified set of cells visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data; and a predetermined percentage of cells visible in the annotated portion of the first view of data.* Independent claims 17, 32, 34 and 35 have also been amended to recite similar limitations. As stated above, the Examiner stated during the interview that the claims, as amended, should at least overcome the rejection of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is obviated.

Therefore, the claims are believed to be allowable, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any issues remain that prevent this application from going to issue, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Gero McClellan, attorney of record, at (336) 698-4286, to discuss strategies for moving prosecution forward toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. MCCLELLAN, Reg. #44227/

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